

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04350 310825Z
ACTION NEA-10

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TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8990

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4350

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP, BENC, SY
SUBJ: FERTILIZER CONSULTANCY

REF: USDOC 12944

1. COMOFF DISCUSSED STATUS OF SUBJECT PROJECT WITH SALIM BABIL, COUNCILLOR OF SARG MINISTER OF INDUSTRY. HE SAID THAT HIGHER COMMITTEE WANTED MORE QTE TECHNICAL INFORMATION UNQTE FROM THE HOMES COMMITTEE REVIEWING PROJECT. PROCESS OF PROVIDING THIS NEW INFORMATION SHOULD TAKE BETWEEN ONE AND TWO WEEKS. BIDDING APPARENTLY DOWN TO FOLLOWING FIRMS (IN DECENDING ORDER OF PREFERENCE): DAVY, SOMERVILLE-JAMES, BRITISH SULPHUR, NITRIDE (FR) LATTER FIRM PROBABLY OUT ACCORDING TO BABIL BECAUSE FO FEARS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST (CREUSOT LOIRE BUILT AMMONIA PLANT TO BE STUDIED)

2. BABIL OBSERVED THAT INDIAN FIRM, FERTILIXER CORPORATION, HAD SUBMITTED QTE BEST UNQTE (I.E. LOWEST) PRICE, BUT DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE TO DO THE JOB. (COMMOFF, IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH MR. ANTAKI, FATHER IN LAW OF ABDUL KARIM AL-RUSTOM, LEARNED THAT PROJECT DELAYED BECAUSE OF LOW INDIAN BID. THIS RAISES POSSIBILITIES THAT TECHNICAL INFORMATION BEING DEMANDED BY HIGHER COMMITTEE WAS EITHER INFORMATION ON UNCLASSIFIED

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INDIAN FIRMS'S TECHNICAL STANDING, OR INFORMATION ON DAVY'S PROBABLE SUPERIORITY IN TECHNICAL ASPECTS. BABIL, HOWEVER, DENIED THAT INDIAN BID AND DELAY WERE RELATED).

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, U.D. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE ASKED COMOFF WHETHER DAVY HAD BEEN RECEIVING US AID

CREDITS IN ITS BIDS ON PROJECT. HE STATED THAT LOCAL
AGENT WHAT HE TERMED THE BRITISH COMPETITOR (PRESUMABLY
BRITISH SULPHUR) HAD BEEN STATING THAT DAVY BID WAS
LOW BECAUSE OF USG CREDITS. ATTACHE FURTHER STATED
THAT HIS QTE HOME OFFICE UNQTE WAS INTERESTED IN MATTER
BECAUSE IT WAS CONSIDERING GRANTING MATCHING CREDITE
TO UK FIRM. COMOFF REPLIED THAT, TO THE BEST OF OUR
KNOWLEDGE, DABY WAS NOT RECEIVING USG CREDITS OF ANY KIND,
IN PARTICULAR US AID SUPPORT, SINCE LATTER WAS NOT INVOLVED
ON PROJECT.

4. MR. ANTAKI ASSURED COMOFF THAT HE WOULD ADVISE DAVY
FURTHER OS SITUATION VIA TELEX.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 31 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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SAS ID: 1975854
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: FERTILIZER CONSULTANCY
TAGS: BEXP, BENC, SY
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